

**The Listing of Claims**

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ yeast strain of claim 3, wherein the strain is yeast *Pichia pastoris* deposited under accession number ATCC PTA-2260.

5-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~obtained~~ obtaining the yeast strain of claim + 4, comprising the steps of:

i) transforming a yeast cell with a first DNA construction wherein said construction comprises:

a) a first insertion DNA sequence corresponding to a 5' regulatory region of the *Pichia pastoris* AOX1 gene operably linked to

b) the MF α signal sequence of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* operably linked to

c) a sequence encoding the human insulin precursor of formula B(1-30)-Y1-Y2-A(1-21) operably linked to

d) a 3' transcription termination sequence of the *Pichia pastoris* AOX1 gene operably linked to

e) a *Pichia pastoris* HIS4 selection gene operably linked to

f) a second insertion DNA sequence corresponding to the *Pichia pastoris* AOX1 gene termination sequence;

ii) selecting the yeast cells, said cells being Mut<sup>s</sup> and comprising a single copy of said DNA construction;

iii) isolating [[a]] said yeast strain;

iv) re-transforming the yeast strain obtained in steps i)-iii) with a second DNA construction wherein said construction comprises:

a) a first insertion DNA sequence corresponding to a 5' regulatory region of the *Pichia pastoris* AOX1 gene operably linked to

- b) the MF  $\alpha$  signal sequence of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* operably linked to
- c) the sequence encoding the human insulin precursor of formula B(1-30)-Y1-Y2-A(1-21) operably linked to
- d) a 3' transcription termination sequence of the *Pichia pastoris* AOX1 gene operably linked to
- e) a zeocine-resistant selection gene;
- v) selecting the re-transformed yeast strain; and
- vi) isolating the selected and re-transformed yeast strain.